

READING MATTERS  
Winter 2019

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library  
2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday  
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THAT ALL MAY READ...

**Notes from Director Danielle Miller**

Happy New Year to everyone in the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library community! This year marks my 11th at WTBBL, and in that time we've seen many changes. We transitioned from cassettes to digital talking books, fully launched the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service, and began offering download access to our locally-produced audio books on our own website. Now we add content to BARD almost every day! We also revitalized our youth services program and introduced a weekly multisensory story time.

In the past year, the majority of downloads were done with the BARD mobile app for Android and iOS devices. We increased our outreach efforts to veterans and Spanish-speakers, and added an outreach librarian position focused on older adults. Additionally, we started a Custom Book Service, putting multiple books on a single cartridge for individual patrons to meet their reading needs. WTBBL began offering duplication on demand to ensure that all readers, whether they use BARD or not, get equal access to the entire collection.

As we look to the future, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) has great plans on the horizon. Development will begin on next-generation digital talking book players, BARD downloads will become streaming files, and a braille e-reader will be available for loan. At WTBBL, we will be upgrading our Audio Book Production department, undertaking several facilities projects, and continuing to increase our outreach efforts. Anticipating an increase in the number of patrons using the Custom Book Service, we will also begin planning for changes in our Shipping department.

One thing that has remained constant through the years is the dedication of WTBBL staff to provide the best library service possible to all our patrons. Their commitment to service, innovation, and willingness to try new things keeps WTBBL nimble and focused on meeting the current and future needs of our patrons. Thank you for being such an important part of the WTBBL community!

## **Youth Services Update by Erin Groth**

Every day brings something new in the WTBBL Youth Services department. The past few months have been a flurry of activity, from spooky parties, to pen pal programs, to monthly visits to the State School for the Blind, to the annual Braille Challenge — or should I say, Braille Challenges!

This year, WTBBL is promoting braille literacy on the east side of our state as well as the west. We'll hold a second Braille Challenge on Saturday, February 23, at the Downtown branch of the Spokane Public Library. If you missed our Seattle event on January 12 (or would like to participate closer to home in Spokane), there's still time to sign up. Please

contact me at [erin.groth@sos.wa.gov](mailto:erin.groth@sos.wa.gov) or visit our website to download a registration form.

The Braille Challenge is presented by the Braille Institute, and is a friendly competition designed to celebrate braille literacy. Students in grades 1 through 12 are invited to participate at one of five levels, in areas like reading comprehension, spelling, speed and accuracy, tactile charts and graphs, and proofreading. There will be awesome prizes and top scorers have a chance to compete nationally! Our special guests — puppies in training from Guide Dogs for the Blind — will be joining us again in Spokane on challenge day. All are welcome to attend, even students who are not competing this year. You won't want to miss it.

The Fall Pen Pal Program came to a close at the end of December, and more than 40 students participated, sending over 120 letters back-and-forth across Washington. We love facilitating this kind of literacy practice, and WTBBL will start up another program in the spring. Stay tuned for news on how to sign up and make a new friend!

There's so much happening in the Youth Services Department, so stay up to date by subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter, DOTS: WTBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter. You can contact me at [erin.groth@sos.wa.gov](mailto:erin.groth@sos.wa.gov) or (206) 615-1253 to be put on the list!

### **New Braille Books from WTBBL by Ed Godfrey**

Thanks to our volunteer transcribers and proofreading teams for making more locally produced books available to our patrons! Here are some of the latest titles:

For adult readers:

BRW 8644 *Looking for Betty MacDonald: the Egg, the Plague, Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle, and I* by Paula Becker.

Betty Bard MacDonald, the best-selling author of *The Egg and I* and the classic *Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle* children's books, burst onto the literary scene shortly after WWII. Readers embraced her memoir of her years as a young bride operating a chicken ranch on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. This is a biography of an endearing Northwest storyteller that reveals the story behind the memoirs. 2016. Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

BRW 1438 *Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle* by Thor Hanson.

A biologist presents the natural history of feathers, applying the findings of paleontologists, ornithologists, biologists, engineers, and art historians to answer questions about the origin of feathers, their evolution, and their uses throughout the ages. 2011. Transcribed by Mary Forster.

BRW 8647 *Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place* by Coll Thrush.

Native Americans greeted the settlers who founded Seattle, and have been part of the fabric of the city ever since. The author uses Native American oral traditions and place names to show how they viewed the land and adapted to urbanization. 2017. Transcribed by Amy Neubert, Mami Moroshi, Randi Aiken, Allyn Higashi, Sibon Ode-Biko and Ed Godfrey.

For young readers:

BRW 1405 *Dolphin Tale: The Junior Novel* by Gabrielle Reyes.

When a dolphin named Winter loses her tail, a young boy named Sawyer and the staff at Clearwater Marine Aquarium must do what they can to help her survive. One day, after visiting his cousin at an army hospital, Sawyer gets an idea to have a doctor there make Winter a prosthetic tail. This proposal inspires the staff at the aquarium and fills Sawyer with the hope that Winter may one day swim again. Inspired by a true story. Recommended for grades 2-4. 2011. Transcribed by Karen Hara.

For very young readers:

BRW 8654 *La Princesa and the Pea* by Susan Middleton Elya.

A rhyming bilingual fairy tale about a girl who must detect a pea beneath a mountain of mattresses if she is to marry the prince. Includes a glossary of Spanish words used in the text. Recommended for preschool and older. 2017. Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

BRJ 1403 *Wheedle on the Needle* by Stephen Cosgrove.

Deep in the woods of the Pacific Northwest lives a red-nosed creature named the Wheedle. Wheedle has to flee the forests, and then the mountains, to try to find peace and quiet. Finally he gets to the very tip-top of Seattle's Space Needle, and finds contentment. Recommended for grades 1-3. 2009 (originally published 1974). Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

BRJ 1402 *Wheedle and the Noodle* by Stephen Cosgrove.

Wheedle, a creature with a red, blinking nose, lives atop Seattle's Space Needle. The usually grumpy creature meets a lost kitten, Noodle, who is looking for a home. Wheedle learns to share his life and his Needle with the abandoned pet in a story about friendship. Recommended for grades 1-3. 2011. Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

### **New Audio Books from WTBBL by John Pai**

Our classic wet winter weather has taken hold, and it is time to hunker down and find some good books to explore. These newly available audio titles are a mixture of some essential Northwest historical pieces as well as some pop-culture jaunts. There are also some good young adult titles as well as some early reader titles that will tickle your fancy!

For adult readers:

DBC 6930 *Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory* by R. Gregory Nokes.

Slaves were brought to the Oregon Territory by their masters. One of those slaves, Robin Holmes, sued his master, Nathaniel Ford, for the possession of Holmes' children and won. This was a rare victory. While Oregon voted to be a free state, its constitution denied African Americans and Chinese Americans most rights. 2013. Narrated by John Ogliore.

DBC 6914 *Where the Salmon Run: The Life and Legacy of Billy Frank Jr.* by Trova Heffernan.

Salmon fishing was an integral part of northwestern Native American lives and a right guaranteed to the tribes by treaty. These fishing rights were ignored until the 1960s when Native American activists like Billy Frank Jr. fought to reassert them. His work on Native American rights continued even after winning the Boldt decision that reaffirmed tribal fishing rights. 2013. Narrated by Elizabeth Lopic.

DBC 6950 *My Oh My: The Dave Niehaus Story* by Billy Mac.

Dave Niehaus became a local institution as the broadcaster for the Seattle Mariners from 1977 through 2010. Over the course of over 5,200 games he made even the bad games sound entertaining. He was inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame as a broadcaster. 2017. Narrated by Bob Carlson.

DBC 607 *The Kid: An Adoption Story* by Dan Savage.

The Seattle-based author of "Savage Love," a sex-advice column, tells how he and his boyfriend adopted the baby of a young vagabond "gutter punk." Some descriptions of sex. Strong language. 1999. Narrated by Tim Sherburn.

For young adults we have:

DBC 6918 *Becoming a Citizen Activist: Stories, Strategies & Advice for Changing Our World* by Nick Licata.

Nick Licata was a neighborhood activist who went on to spend five terms on the Seattle City Council. Based on his experience on working from the outside and on the inside of government, Licata gives practical advice to people who want to influence change. 2016. Narrated by Norm Zimmerman.

DBC 6760 *Liesl & Po* by Lauren Oliver.

Liesl only knows life in her small and cramped attic, where she's been locked away by her cruel stepmother. But everything changes when she meets Po, a ghost, and Will, an alchemist's apprentice, forming a trio who are bound for an extraordinary adventure. Recommended for grades 4-7. 2011. Narrated by Courtney Maheras.

DBC 6850 *Under A Painted Sky* by Stacey Lee.

It's 1849, Gold Rush time, and two girls are on the Oregon Trail headed to California. Samantha, a Chinese-American, and Annamae, a runaway teenage slave, disguise themselves as boys and join up with some young cowboys as they make their way west. They have adventures and escapades while keeping their identities hidden, but complications ensue when they both develop crushes. Strong language and violence. For junior and senior high. 2015. Narrated by Sarah Pitman.

And finally, for very young readers:

DBC 7051 *I Love You More Than the Smell of Swamp Gas* by Kevan Atteberry.

Papa and Little Monster go on a smelly adventure in the woods, meeting all sorts of beastly creatures. But does Papa love the swamp more than his little monster? Recommended for preschool through grade 2. 2017. Narrated by Deanna Sarkar. Also in Braille as BRW 8653, transcribed by Joan Moritz.

DBC 7052 *Sing, Don't Cry* by Angela Dominguez.

Once a year, Abuelo comes to visit from Mexico and he always brings his guitar. Based on the life story of Apolinar Navarrete Diaz (the author's grandfather and successful mariachi musician). In English with some Spanish. Recommended for preschool through grade 2. 2017. Narrated by Rachel Glass.

HAPPY READING!!!

### **Outreach to Spanish Speakers by Rocío Vargas**

Beginning last year, WTBBL's partner and supporter, Sea Mar Community Health Clinic, gave us the opportunity to meet with their Latino senior groups throughout King County. We also participated at the health services referral resource Ventanilla de la Salud at the Mexican Consulate in Seattle.

The level of community participation was remarkable. People expressed an overwhelming appreciation of our service and a great interest in learning about the audio books.

Some highlights of this outreach include:

- Increasing the Spanish-speaking patron population by 17%,
- Giving Spanish outreach presentations at three community centers in King County,
- Participating in the Latino Health Forum in SeaTac and the Health Fair at the Mexican Consulate, and
- Beginning outreach partnerships at the Des Moines Activity Center, SeaTac Community Center, North Bellevue Community Center, and the Mexican Consulate.

WTBBL will continue to partner with Latino groups and organizations that can help us refer people to our services. The WTBBL brochure and application are also available in Spanish on our website at [wtbbl.org](http://wtbbl.org).

### **Volunteer Spotlight on Jane Salazar**

My name is Jane Salazar. I'm an only child and I have lots of pets including two rabbits, two chickens, and a pug. I'm 18 years old and a senior in high school. I love working with little kids. I also love animals and working with them as well. I have been taking horseback riding lessons for over 10 years and someday I would like to combine my love of working with children and animals to be a riding instructor for children with disabilities.

I started volunteering at the library because I wanted to be part of the community that has helped me so much and give back to it. I have been a

patron of the library since I was in fifth grade. It's been a big part of my life since then. I always look forward to receiving more books in the mail, and now that I volunteer at the library, I can check out even more!

I've always loved the library. I love the feeling of community and getting the inside scoop about what's happening next. Working in the Shipping department is always fun because I get to see all the books being returned and think about what I might want to check out next. My dad is a patron too, and I was able to get him signed up for a player and to receive books.

The best part of working at the library is helping Erin Groth, the youth services librarian. I like helping with story time, organizing the children's books and cleaning the children's room. Erin puts on so many great events for the kids, and I get to help put them together and help at the events. I love working at the library and helping the kids at story time. It's the best!

### **Thank You to Our Donors from August 1 to October 31, 2018**

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